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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

POVERTY AND PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

The *Public Ledger* recently reported, without note or comment, the speech of an anti-Prohibitionist, in which occurs the following: "The effects of Prohibition in Maine indicate an enormous decrease in population. It has caused much land to be abandoned that can be had for little or nothing."

Upon examining the United States statistics for the period named, I found that the population had increased from 583 000 to 649,000. The valuation of the farms alone was found to average \$162 for each and every man, woman and child in the State, and of manufactures \$50 for each inhabitant. Other figures, equally convincing, could be given to show the prosperity of the State under Prohibition. A word from the *Quill* is to the point:

"Those who fear that Prohibition will injure our farmers by destroying a market, that of the brewers, we beg to call their attention to the Maine statistics, which will show that whereas twenty years ago nineteen out of every twenty farms were mortgaged, to-day not more than one in twenty is incumbered. In 1868 about 1800 writs of foreclosure were issued, last year not more than five. Maine farmers are better situated to-day in every respect than are the farmers in the great State of Pennsylvania. Maine is under prohibition. Pennsylvania is under license. We claim that prohibition has not injured the farmers of Maine."—*Christian Statesman*.

Apropos to the above I may add that a recent visit (September 4, 1889), to the region on the confines of the towns of Winthrop and Wayne, Kennebec county, in the State of Maine, where I taught a district school in the winter of 1849-50, then known as "Skunk's Misery," and so called by reason of its poverty, drunkenness, squalor and crime, revealed to me a new, neat, white school-house in place of the one so dilapidated that the school was moved to a farmer's kitchen that year. A number of new houses, and others evidently renovated occupied the places of former drunkard's homes. The people who were notorious for illiteracy and Sabbath breaking now attend religious meetings and a Sabbath-school. The man condemned to State-prison for a crime committed while he was intoxicated, is now an exemplary, moral and Christian citizen of another locality. The very face of nature has improved, and the old ignorances and debaucheries are traditions of the past. These forty years show marks of real progress in farming, thrift, intelligence and morality. The entire neighborhood were in 1849 patrons of a grog-shop which prohibition has made impossible.

The fish and cracker eating and rum-drinking loafers, who lounged on the ancient "settle" of the shop and "swore by the Squire" who dispensed groceries and grog, seem an extinct race. The civil war swept some of the poor fellows into its graves at Gettysburg and elsewhere, but those who are left behind have made a new and better community.

R. B. H.

Intelligence received from Samoa states that peace has been formally concluded between the rival chiefs, Mataafa and Tamasese.

THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN STATES.

The President of the United States has appointed the following named gentlemen to be the ten Commissioners of the United States, at the Conference of American States, to be held in Washington, D. C., November, 1889:

John B Henderson, Missouri; Cornelius N. Bliss, New York; Clement Studebaker, Indiana; T. Jefferson Coolidge, Boston; Charles R. Flint, New York; Henry G. Davis, West Virginia; M. Estee, California; H. F. Hanson, Georgia; William H. Trescott, South Carolina, and Andrew Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

The list comprises many able business men, most of them the political friends of the Administration, some of them well-known to the public. Mr. Carnegie is the only one who has been identified with the international arbitration movement, and to him the visit of the British Peace Deputation in 1887 owes much of its success. Mr. Henderson was known as a radical Republican in the days when opposition to the policy of President Johnson was intense. Mr. Bliss is a business partner of Vice President Morton. Mr. Studebaker is the celebrated wagon-maker of South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Estee was prominent in the Republican National Convention which nominated Harrison and Morton. Mr. Trescott was the diplomatic agent of the State Department when Mr. Blaine was Secretary of State in President Garfield's Cabinet. Mr. Coolidge is a capitalist, a manufacturer, and a successful business man of Boston. Mr. Flint is of the house of Flint & Company, of New York, engaged in trade with South America. He is, perhaps, the largest rubber dealer in the United States. He also owns a large fleet of vessels, and is a director in the United States and Brazilian Steamship Company. Mr. Davis was a Senator from West Virginia for twelve years. He is now the President of the West Virginia Central Railroad Company.

The response on the part of the Central and South American States has been general and favorable. It is proposed to give the delegates a tour of observation through the principal industrial and commercial regions of the United States.

There are thirty-five authorized representatives from South and Central America with their secretaries and families, and of these all have arrived or reported, except one from Chili and one from Ecuador, who are expected before the party starts on its tour.

Of course the promotion of commerce is a leading motive, but we can but hope that a general policy of Arbitration will be commended as contemplated in one of the propositions contained in the call. On this the friends of peace should insist.

An enviable quickness of *repartee* was shown by a French actor when the head of a goose was thrown upon the stage. Advancing to the footlights, he said: "Gentlemen, if any one among you has lost his head, I shall be glad to restore it at the conclusion of the piece."

Which is most obedient to the parson—the church bell or the organ? The bell says, "I ring if I am tolled," and the organ "I am blown if I do it."